

Requested by: Representatives Ives, McCombs, Sherrill, Shubert
STATE EMPLOYEES' COMMUNICATIONS WITH LEGISLATORS

Section 22.2. (a) Chapter 126 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"ARTICLE 15.

"Communications With Members of the General Assembly.

"§ 126-90. *Communications with members of the General Assembly.*

A State employee's right to speak to a member of the General Assembly at the member's request shall not be directly or indirectly limited by the employee's supervisor or by any policy of the department, agency, or institution that employs that State employee."

(b) G.S. 126-5 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(c6) Article 15 of this Chapter shall apply to all State employees, public school employees, and community college employees."

PART XXIII. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Requested by: Senators Odom, Perdue, Plyler, Conder, Jordan,
 Representatives Ives, Sherrill, McCombs, Hardy, Jeffus

FIRE PROTECTION GRANT FUND

Section 23. (a) Chapter 58 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"ARTICLE 85A.

"State Fire Protection Grant Fund.

"§ 58-85A-1. *Creation of Fund; allocation to local fire districts and political subdivisions of the State.*

(a) There is created in the Office of State Budget and Management the State Fire Protection Grant Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to compensate local fire districts and political subdivisions of the State for providing local fire protection to State-owned buildings and their contents.

(b) The Office of State Budget and Management shall develop and implement an equitable and uniform statewide method for distributing any funds to the State's local fire districts and political subdivisions.

Upon the request of the Director of the Budget, the Department of Insurance shall provide the Office of State Budget and Management all information necessary to develop and implement the formula.

(c) It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate annually to the State Fire Protection Grant Fund at least three million eighty thousand dollars (\$3,080,000) from the General Fund, one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) from the Highway Fund, and nine hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$970,000) from University of North Carolina receipts. Funds received from the General Fund shall be allocated only for providing local fire protection for State-owned property supported by the General Fund; funds received from the Highway Fund shall be allocated only for providing local fire protection for State-owned property supported by the Highway Fund; and funds received from University of North Carolina receipts shall be allocated only for providing local fire protection for State-owned property supported by University of North Carolina receipts."

(b) G.S. 143-3.7 is repealed.